



Bishop: Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung

Vicar: Revd Ian Chew

## COLLECT FOR TODAY

O God, You declare Your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of Your grace, that we, running the way of Your commandments, may receive Your gracious promises, and be made partakers of Your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**20 Aug 2023**  
**Trinity 11**

**8am & 10:30am**

**Preacher:** Revd Ian Chew

**Sermon:** "I am the True Vine"

**Bible Reading:** Ephesians 1:1-14;  
John 15:1-8

Connect with the Ascension Family



13 Francis Thomas Drive S(359339)  
T(65) 6283 3988 F: (65) 6283 3220

Email: [admin@ascension.org.sg](mailto:admin@ascension.org.sg)

Website: [www.ascension.org.sg](http://www.ascension.org.sg)

Event Calendar: <https://ascension.org.sg/coa-calendar>

## UPCOMING

**25 Aug**  
**(Fri)**  
**10:30am-**  
**12:30pm**

**Elder Fellowship Holy Communion Service**  
Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH)  
Revd Soon Soo Kee

**27 Aug**  
**(Sun)**  
**8am &**  
**10:30am**

**Trinity 12**  
"Including People with Special Needs"  
Galatians 6:2;  
Luke 14:12-14  
Ps Leow Wen Pin

**26 Aug**  
**(Sat)**  
**9am - 3pm**

**Alpha Weekend**  
Ascension Hall

## VICAR'S MESSAGE

Dear COA Family,

What is the unpardonable sin?

The Gospel writer Mark records for us one of the scariest verses in the Bible:

*“Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”*— for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit” (Mark 3:28-30).

These verses, repeated again in Matthew 12, are undoubtedly the words of Jesus. In here, Jesus emphatically refers to the sin which will never be forgiven – blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

This then begs the question: What exactly is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?

Is it speaking ill of the Holy Spirit? Or is it having critical or negative thoughts about the Holy Spirit? Or is it disobeying or even resisting the Holy Spirit?

If it is any of the above sins, then I am afraid that all of us have committed that sin at some point in our lives. We have spoken or thought ill of God and have at numerous times quenched the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Yet our Lord Jesus is also emphatic in saying that he **can** and **will** forgive all our sins when we repent. He has died on the cross for our sins and his blood is able to wash us spotlessly clean.

This is why the Apostle John writes confidently:

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9).

Therefore, I believe that the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit spoken of by Jesus refers to a **deliberate and persistent rejection of the Holy Spirit** after having been convicted of the truth of God!

The context of Jesus' words gives us the clue. The Pharisees, after witnessing Jesus driving out the demon from a man such that he could both see and speak, attributed Jesus' power to Beelzebub, the prince of demons. This is an absolutely absurd claim as Satan will not go about casting out his demons and wrecking his own work. Instead, Jesus' authority clearly comes from the Holy Spirit!

Knowing this fact, the Pharisees chose not only to reject the power and authority of the Holy Spirit, but also to insult him as the prince of demons. They had deliberately chosen not to believe and hardened their own hearts in doing so. They would come to a point where they were beyond repentance and therefore committed the sin which is unforgivable.

There are two applications from this teaching:

1. **You have not committed the unpardonable sin as long as you repent.** The devil has used these verses to trap many who have weak consciences such that they think they can never be forgiven. That is patently untrue. Jesus can and will forgive our every sin as long as we confess and repent of it. There is no sin too hard for God to forgive us. It is only when we don't repent that we are in grave danger of being judged for our sins.
2. **Never underestimate the effects of continued rebellion against the Holy Spirit.** Some have taken sin too lightly. They continue in sinful ways thinking that God will always forgive. They shut out the Spirit's voice and sear their own consciences until they feel nothing about sinning. That is the point where repentance becomes impossible and their sin unforgivable.

Church, let us therefore never doubt the goodness and grace of our Saviour towards us nor take sinning lightly. By doing so, we will walk in the light of Christ always.

God bless,  
Revd Ian



## WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

We warmly welcome you to worship with us at our Sunday Services.

The Church Office is open daily from Tuesday to Saturday (9am to 5.30pm), except for public holidays. Office Phone: 62833988  
Emergency contact: 81002203

Sunday Service	Time	Venue
<b>English Traditional</b> Holy Communion	8:00am	Sanctuary (Level 2)
<b>English Contemporary</b> Holy Communion 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	10:30am	Sanctuary (Level 2)
<b>Mandarin</b> Holy Communion 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	10:30am	Ascension Hall (Level 3)

### NEW TO COA?

Whether you have joined our service today, onsite or online, or found us on the web, we are glad you have! Do let us know if you would like more information or prayer, or to just give us some feedback. Please contact us at [admin@ascension.org.sg](mailto:admin@ascension.org.sg) or click on the link and kindly fill in the form to help us keep in touch with you. Click [here](#).

If you are driving to church:

- Register for your new car decal via this link <https://bit.ly/3omt1Y9> (Please contact the church office if you cannot access the online form.)
- We encourage everyone to register for the new decal to enter St Andrew's Village. The SAV guards have the authority to deny entry to vehicle without proper identification.

## UPDATE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

If your home or email address or contact number has been changed, please notify the church office to ensure you continue to receive COA correspondence. You can notify us in any of the following ways:

1. Call the church office at 62833988
2. Email to [admin@ascension.org.sg](mailto:admin@ascension.org.sg)
3. Write to 13 Francis Thomas Drive, Singapore 359339

## ELECTRONIC OFFERTORY

### INTERNET BANKING (BANK TRANSFER)

Account Name: Church of The Ascension  
Bank Name: OCBC  
Account Number: 511010332001  
Reference: Tithing number (if any), and any other description e.g. month of contribution etc.

### PAYNOW VIA UEN

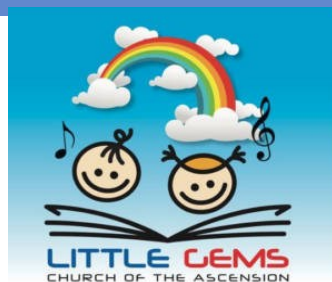
- Step 1: Log in to your internet banking account
- Step 2: On the PayNow transfer screen, enter the UEN number T08CC4066A for the Church of the Ascension



## CHILDREN MINISTRY

Sunday school classes start at 10.30am.  
The children will be dismissed after 10.30am  
English Service.

Enquiries: [Shirley Kwek](#)



## BREAKFAST AT LKC

Welcome to our 'Refreshment Corner' and enjoy your fellowship with the food and beverage.

We praise God and are grateful for the generous monetary contribution we have been receiving.

If anyone is interested in contributing in kind (eg. food and drinks), please contact Elaine Koh (94511625) or Clare at the church office. In consideration of hygiene and proper coordination, we seek your kind cooperation in informing Elaine or Clare before placing any food contribution at the 'Refreshment Corner'.



## VACANCY FOR COA STAFF POSITION

We are looking for suitable candidates to fill the following position:

- Associate Chaplain for St Andrew's Nursing Home (Aljunied). Interested applicants, please click on the below URL <https://ascension.org.sg/jd03> and send your resume to [admin@ascension.org.sg](mailto:admin@ascension.org.sg)

## PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS

We are starting a church prayer support group for parents whose children have gone astray or are in need of prayer. The group will meet once a month to:

1. create a safe space for concerned parents to share openly,
2. assure and extend comfort to the parents that they are not alone in this journey and
3. pray for God's divine intervention in the lives of the children.

The prayer support group's first meeting is on **26 Aug (Sat)** at **9am** in **Ascension Hall**.

Interested parents, please contact Ps Edward at 81571244 or email to: [edward.z@ascension.org.sg](mailto:edward.z@ascension.org.sg) to register.

## COA HOLY LAND STUDY TOUR - TEACHING & BRIEFING SESSIONS

For those who have signed up for the Holy Land Study Tour (19 Nov - 1 Dec), there will be teaching and briefing sessions before the trip. The details are as follows:-

**Dates:** 27 Aug, 24 Sept & 22 Oct.

**Time:** 12.30pm - 2pm

**Venue:** Ascension Hall, Level 3

## CONFIRMATION COURSES

### Confirmation Course (Sep-Oct 2023)

**Date:** 24 Sep - 28 Oct 2023,

**Time:** 1 pm-2,30pm

**Venue:** Church of the Ascension



Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which you affirm for yourself the faith into which you have been baptised and your intention to live a life of committed discipleship. This affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the laying on of hands by the confirming Bishop.

The Confirmation Course is for:

1. Those seeking confirmation / membership in Church of the Ascension (COA).
2. Those baptised and currently attending church services regularly at COA.

### Schedule for Confirmation Course

Sunday 24 Sep - The Ten Commandments (1-4)

Sunday 1 Oct - The Ten Commandments (5-10)

Sunday 8 Oct - The Work of the Holy Spirit

Sunday 15 Oct - Anglicanism & Church History

Sunday 22 Oct - The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Saturday 28 Oct (10am-12pm) - Confirmation Retreat

**Confirmation Service:** Sunday 29 Oct 2022, 10.30 am  
service conducted by Bp Rennis Ponniah



## ELDER FELLOWSHIP HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

**Date:** Friday, 25 Aug 2023

**Time:** 10:30am - 12:30pm

**Venue:** Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH)

**Speaker:** Revd Soon Soo Kee

Lunch will be provided after Service at LKC Hall.

Do join us if you are 60 or older. Please contact the Church Office for registration and more information.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR USHER MINISTRY

The Usher Ministry is looking for more people to serve in our English 8am and 10.30am services. We not only serve to facilitate the smooth running of the service, but also are the **first point of welcome for new visitors**. If you would like to join us, please contact the church office.

CHURCH CAMP 2024

*Church of the Ascension*

# Church Camp 2024

**FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSES  
TOGETHER**

**DATE: 1ST - 4TH JUNE**

**VENUE: AMERALD RESORT  
HOTEL, DESARU**

**SPEAKERS:**

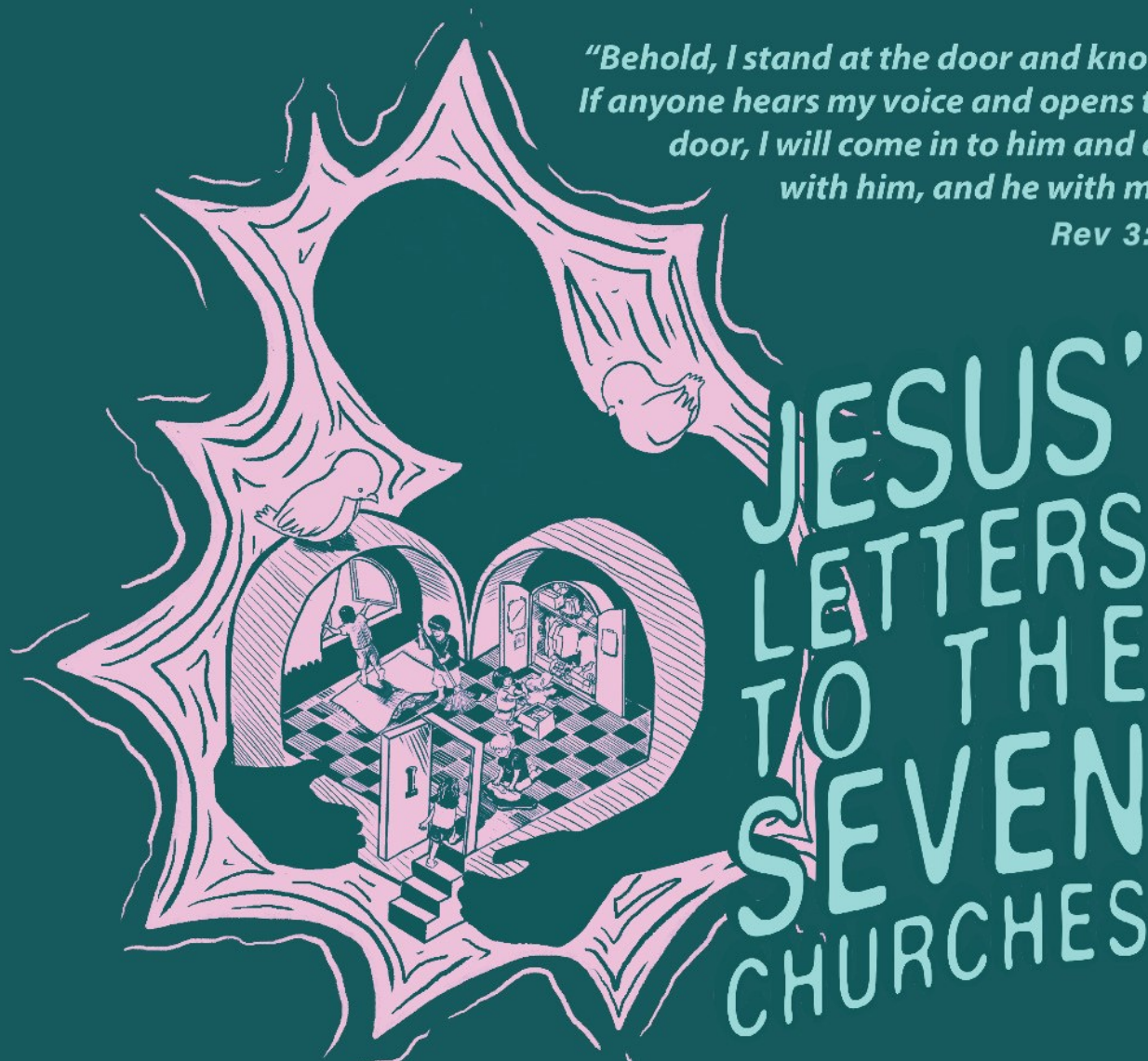
**REVD TIMOTHY &  
MRS JOYCE EWING CHOW**

*More details to come*

## SEPTEMBER -- NOVEMBER SERMON SERIES

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock.  
If anyone hears my voice and opens the  
door, I will come in to him and eat  
with him, and he with me."*

*Rev 3:20*



3 Sep	<i>Revelation: Who is Jesus Now?</i>	Revd Ian Chew
10 Sep	<i>Ephesus - How to Rekindle First Love?</i>	Revd Soon Soo Kee
17 Sep	<i>Smyrna - Faithfulness to What End?</i>	Ps Barnabas Sim
24 Sep	<i>Pergamum - How Dangerous is Compromise?</i>	Revd Stephen Lim
1 Oct	<i>Thyatira - Tolerance: Virtue or Vice?</i>	Ps Edward Zaccheus
5 Nov	<i>Sardis - What is Your Reputation Worth?</i>	Revd Jeremy Joe Tan
12 Nov	<i>Philadelphia - What are Open Doors?</i>	Ps Jamie Harris
19 Nov	<i>Laodicea - Which Perspective is Right?</i>	Revd Ian Chew

SAV FAMILY DAY - 8 OCT 2023

# SAV Family Day



8 Oct 2023, Sunday  
9am-1:30pm  
St. Andrew's Junior  
College



SAV FAMILY DAY - 8 OCT 2023 (REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT)



## SAV Family Day

8 Oct, Sunday | 9am-1.30pm  
St Andrew's Junior College



Tickets are available  
for purchase  
Scan here to register  
online & make payment  
(NO CASH)

Enter UEN/Bill Reference No.  
SAV Family Day



**YOU ARE INVITED TO ...**

# BIDADARI KIDS CLUB

**FOR A TIME OF GAMES, STORIES, CRAFT, SONGS**

Program is catered for 9 years and below, all ages are welcomed



**DATE: EVERY 1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS (EXCLUDING PH)**  
**TIME: 6-7PM**  
**LOCATION: PLAYGROUND BETWEEN 106B & 108A BIDADARI PARK DR (NEAR PRIME SUPERMARKET)**



**JOIN OUR WHATSAPP CHAT FOR LATEST UPDATES !**



**ORGANISED BY**



**SUPPORTED BY**



## BIDADARI KIDS CLUB - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ...**

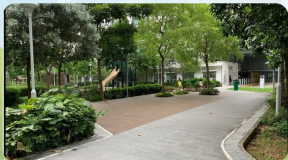
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**ORGANISED BY**



**SUPPORTED BY**



Organised by: **Good News Community Services**

### Details of Event

Event Name: Bidadari Kids Club

Date/Time: Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays (excluding PH), 6pm to 7pm

Venue: Playground between Blk 106B and 108A Bidadari Park Drive (near Prime Supermarket)

Objective: Reach out to children (aged 3 to 9) and their caregivers in Bidadari. Join us as.....

- Curriculum planner
- Game Master
- Story Teller
- Registration/ Parents' Liaison
- Audio-visual/ Technical Photographer/Videographer
- Befriender to parents
- Visitation team

Please sign up at <https://forms.gle/3BicNMCXLgFEKzWT6>

For enquiries, please contact Karen Wong @ mobile: 98234044 or email [wongkaren@goodnews.org.sg](mailto:wongkaren@goodnews.org.sg)

## DIOCESAN DIGEST (JULY 2023)



The latest issue of the Diocesan Digest is out! Find out the latest news and developments within the diocese. Download your copy at [www.anglican.org.sg/diocesan-digest/](http://www.anglican.org.sg/diocesan-digest/)



## DIOCESE OF SABAH PRAYER CONFERENCE: PROMISE OF BREAKTHROUGH



Join us for a powerful time of prayer as we seek God's guidance and blessing for our personal lives, families, churches, and nations. Together, we pray strategically with deeper understanding for the church and our nation. We will also focus on praying for Sabah, asking God to break through spiritual strongholds and bring salvation, transformation and revival to the region.

**Date:** 30 Aug - 1 Sep 2023

**Venue:** St Patrick's Church, Tawau, Sabah, Malaysia

**Closing Date:** 30 August 2023

Interested participants may find out more and register at <http://bit.ly/PRAYCON23>

## #PARISHOFTHEWEEK – PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH (PCC)

- The Diocese of Singapore is embarking on a 2-year campaign: Parish of the Week, where one parish is featured per week.
- This week, the Parish of the Week is Parish of Christ Church (PCC). You can view a video about PCC via <http://anglican.org.sg/potw> or the Diocesan Facebook or Instagram page @dioceseofsingapore.
- For YouTube Link, please click [here](#).



*Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers*

## PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK: 20 - 26 AUG 2023

### 1) DIOCESE OF SINGAPORE:

#### CHRIST CHURCH

**Vicar:** Canon Steven Asirvatham

1. Personal Discipleship Journey of the Parish

- Pray that the Parish will be a discipling community and that the number of disciple-makers will multiply through the Personal Discipleship Journey Programme.

2. Outreach to Migrant Workers

- The Parish provides chaplaincy support to St Andrew's Migrant Worker Medical Centre. Pray that the Lord will enable this work to bless and touch the lives of the migrant workers.

3. Weekday Lunch Initiative

- The Parish hopes to partner Christian organisations to provide free weekday lunches in the Parish Canteen to reach out to the needy and poor in Little India. Pray alongside the Parish that the Lord will send partners to launch and make this initiative sustainable.

4. Parish Leadership

- Pray that the leaders will be sensitive to where the Lord is leading and have faith in what God is doing in the Parish.

### 2) SINGAPORE AND THE WORLD:

**Singapore:** Pray for God's guidance on Singaporeans to elect the right President for Singapore and for him to lead in righteousness, justice, love and compassion.

**World:** Pray for God's protection and deliverance of the Pakistani Christians and churches from attacks by religious extremists and for wisdom for the worldwide Christian community to support them at this time.

### 3) PARISH

- Sept - Nov sermon series: Pray that we will grow to have deeper revelations of who our Lord Jesus is and the church through Jesus' letters to the seven churches.
- Alpha Weekend on 26 Aug: Pray for God's Holy Spirit to speak and move mightily amongst our hosts, helpers, and participants during the Weekend.
- Confirmation: Pray for good response to the class starting on 24 Sep, leading to the Confirmation Service on 29 Oct. Pray that God's Spirit will move the hearts of those considering affirming their commitments to live a life of committed discipleship through confirmation.

### 4) THE SICK AND SUFFERING:

#### For health and recovery

Evelyn Tan, Joanne Lau,  
Lily Chan, Mary Yee, Tan Teck Hin,  
Wong Wah Kum, Zephan Heng

#### Relatives and Friends of COA members

Benjamin (Lesley Ho's nephew) - Hepatitis B  
David Yeong (Margaret Onn's husband) - cancer  
Sng Hock Meng - healing of the mind  
Soo Ngook Khinn (Sien Yee's father) - salvation  
Ong Chwee Hock (Ong Siew Chin's brother) -  
physiotherapy and lymphoma

#### For healing

Annie Huan - strength for her legs  
Conelius Loo - sleep apnea  
Joseph Phua - muscular degeneration  
- stones in left kidney.  
- urinary tract infection.

Felicia Koh - tiny cyst on the liver.

Pray for favorable results and no further tests need to be done.

Zephan Heng - ALP in the liver to be back to normal level and good report for test results.

Steven Syn - restoration and wellness.

Janet Hale - relief from pain in the stomach.

Wilson Lim - continued recovery from loss of red blood cells

Jasmine Tan - health and protection of baby.

Nancy Chan (Low) - stroke & heart

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."*

John 15:5